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**United Nations Environment Assembly
of the United Nations Environment
Programme**

**144th meeting of the Committee of Permanent
Representatives to the United Nations Environment
Programme**

Nairobi, 8 January 2019

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; 2:30p.m. to 5:00p.m.

Conference Room 1

**Agenda Item 5: Preparations for the fourth meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent
Representatives and the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly**

Note on the 2019 Sustainable Innovation Expo

Sustainable Innovation Expo
at the
UN Environment Assembly
11-15 March 2019



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Background: the 2019 Sustainable Innovation Expo

The UN Environment Assembly, the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, is scheduled to take place 11-15 March 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. It will focus on the theme *Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production*. It is a theme that is close to all our interests – businesses, governments, civil society and every citizen of the world. Our planet has provided us with an abundance of natural resources, but the way societies use, manage and protect them fundamentally impacts our global well-being.

To find out how we can live within ecological limits under the impacts of our business-as-usual economic activities and create shared values, we will be inviting thought leaders from governments, private sector and civil society to present and discuss the solutions to address these most pressing challenges as we seek to improve our resource efficiency through a circular economy.

This will be done primarily through the *Sustainable Innovation Expo*. Now in its third edition, the *Expo* is the UN Environment's premier solutions-oriented platform that supports the Environment Assembly's mission as the highest-level decision-making body on the environment in the United Nations and which provides leadership on global environmental policies and sets the international environmental agenda.

The *2019 Expo* will focus on pressing environmental issues and will be aimed at tackling some of our planet's greatest environmental challenges. Championed by UN Environment, *eco-innovation* is a business approach which promotes sustainability throughout the entire life cycle of a product, while also boosting the performance and competitiveness of businesses.

The *Expo* will comprise:

- **Exhibition space** for showcasing the latest cutting-edge industry and innovative solutions to our environmental challenges. Interested exhibitors can apply for a booth through the 2019 UN Environment Assembly website and will be selected based on the following criteria:
 - The proposed solution must be innovative and address one of the themes and incorporate life-cycle thinking;
 - Adequate regional and gender representation.

(*To apply for an exhibition slot at the Expo, please visit the application portal <https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/sie-application> on or before 21 December 2018.)

- **Panel Discussions** in which participants to the Assembly and Expo will share experiences and challenges on solutions to life-cycle challenges. The Life-Cycle sub-themes to be addressed are: resources, energy, chemicals and waste management.
- **Pop-up Chats** that participants can organize on relevant issues;
- **Networking Space** for creating partnerships.

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PROGRAMME OF PANEL SESSIONS

** Disclaimer: these sessions and their timings are tentative*

Sunday, 10 March

17.00 - 19.00: Opening of the 2019 Sustainable Innovation Expo and Exhibitions and Eco-Innovation Reception

Monday, 11 March

11.30 - 13.00, Panel Session I

Innovative Life-Cycle Approaches for Feeding our World

The panel of experts will explore energy, water, chemicals, land, and ecosystem-based avenues for integrating or scaling up sustainability in the value chains of key agro-processing, agro-allied production and distribution chains, as well as food outlets across the world. **(Lead: Economy Division)**

Monday, 11 March

15.00 - 16.30, Panel Session II: Legal Empowerment, Leaving No one Behind in Decision-Making on Sustainability

The panel will identify innovative legal tools to integrate the concerns of less-privileged, marginalized and underrepresented groups and individuals around the world in environmental decision-making including on business-as-usual production and distribution systems. **(Lead: Law Division)**

Tuesday, 12 March

10.00 - 11.30, Panel Session III: Working Together to Beat Plastics Pollution

The panel of leading experts, representing actors across the value chain, will describe how concerted action addressing the key levers to shift away from a linear plastics economy will beat plastics pollution and make way for a new plastics economy where the resources are kept at high value within the economy. Action by different actors in the private sector (plastic manufacturers, goods producers and recyclers), policy-makers, and citizens will be presented in the panel. **(Leads: Economy and Ecosystems Divisions)**

Tuesday, 12 March

14.30 - 16.00, Panel Session IV: Mobilizing Sustainable Finance for Eco-Innovation and the Circular Economy

The panel will explore opportunities for banks to mobilize finance to accelerate the development of business strategies aligned with sustainable consumption and production in diverse industry sectors. **(Leads: Economy Division [UNEP FI])**

Wednesday, 13 March

10.00 - 11.30, Panel Session V: Harnessing Big Data on the Environment for Sustainable Development

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The panel will engage formidable corporate and technological players, including start-ups in the information, telecommunications, and digital technology space to identify avenues for using big data and artificial intelligence to drive eco-innovative changes in various local and global supply chains. (**Lead:** Science Division)

Wednesday, 13 March

14.30 - 16.00, Panel Session VI: Faith and the Earth--Faith-Based Initiatives for Addressing Environmental Challenges

The panel will explore the significant role that faith-based organizations and groups can play in encouraging environmentally-friendly and sustainable lifestyles and production. (**Lead:** Policy and Programme Division)

Thursday, 14 March

10.00 - 11.30, Panel Session VII: Accelerating Circularity Actions for a Sustainable Textile Value Chain

The panel will explore the way forward and concrete actions in achieving a more sustainable and circular textile value chain. (**Leads:** Economy and Communication Divisions)

Thursday, 14 March

11.30 - 12.30, Launch of the UN Alliance on Sustainable Fashion (Media Event)

The clothing and textiles industry contribute significantly to global pollution through its intensive energy, water and natural resource footprint. However, there is very little momentum globally in mainstreaming environmental sustainability within the global fashion value chain. It is estimated that this unaddressed unsustainable production and consumption of clothing and textiles comes at a cost of over US\$500 billion annually to the global environmental system.

The UN Alliance on Sustainable Fashion will bring together leading actors in the industry. Through the Alliance, the UN commits to changing the path of fashion, reducing its negative social, economic and environmental impact; and turning fashion into a driver of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thursday, 14 March

14.30 - 16.00, Panel Session VIII: Education and Sports for Eco-Innovation

With sports being a unifying tool globally, this session will be aimed at finding ways to use sports, gaming, youth and education to achieve enlightenment for pro-environmental behavioral change that targets both consumers and producers. (**Lead:** Ecosystems Division)

Friday, 15 March

10.00 - 11.30, Panel Session IX: Leveraging Sustainable Procurement to Transform the Tourism Sector

This panel will explore how we can transform tourism value chains to low carbon and resource-efficient operations through sustainable consumption and production practices. The effective implementation of sustainable procurement



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practices in tourism can further advance resource efficiency and generate innovative solutions to beat pollution.
(Leads: Economy and Ecosystems Divisions)

For more information:

To register, please visit <https://reg.unog.ch/event/26989/>

To apply for an exhibition space, please visit: <https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/sie-application> on or before 21 December 2018.

For general questions on private sector participation: unenvironment-privatesector@un.org

For more information, kindly visit <http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/>

Side Events, for more information please contact Michael Stanley-Jones,
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